

Rotary 15

COMMUNITY NETWORKER

ROTARY CLUB OF PARRAMATTA CITY, DISTRICT 9675

Rotary Four-Way Test

The Four-Way Test challenges Rotarians, in everything they do, to ask themselves:

Of the things we say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

Meeting 13 January 2014

Barbecues

President Keith previously told us that the January 4 barbecue at Bunnings was successful, despite it being a quieter time than usual because of the holidays. “We had takings of \$978.20. Expenses on the day were \$180.37, leaving a margin of nearly \$800,” he said. “Some products sold had previously been purchased for Friday Bunnings BBQ which did not eventuate so the net profit will probably be nearer to \$700 – still a worthwhile activity. Thanks to Phillip Brophy, Johnny Ching, Ray Reed, John Totonjian, Bob Rosengeen and Malcolm Brown who manned the stall with me. He urged members to keep April 5 free for the next Bunnings barbecue.

For the Australia Day barbecue at Parramatta Park, Ron Edgar has taken over the organisation and has called for volunteers for the first shift, starting at 4 am when we will be setting up and starting the cooking. Selling starts at 6 am and the first shift finishes at 8 am. That is when the next shift takes over, from 8 till noon. The second shift will be responsible for cleaning up.

Our Guests

In our first meeting for the year, chaired by president-elect Ron Elgar in the absence of President Keith, the club was delighted to have as guests two prospective members: Dr Sangeetha Bobba, a general practitioner, and Greg Kay, a business consultant. Sangeetha, who trained at Monash University and has practised in the western suburbs of Sydney for the previous three years is currently working in a practice in North Parramatta. Focusing on preventative medicine, she has undertaken further training in paediatrics, family planning, dermatology and mental health. Her chief delights are seeing improvements in health of her patients and seeing patients taking a proactive approach to maintaining their health. Ron assured Sangeetha that Rotary has become more involved in health than ever before in its history, and that Secretary Joy

Gillett is chief executive of Australian Rotary Health, a privately-funded organisation which is the largest non-government mental health research foundation in Australia.



Sangeetha

The Centenary of Gallipoli

There will be a meeting of representatives of the three Parramatta Rotary Clubs on Wednesday, January 22. This is to work out a joint approach to a Federal Government grant for a program in Parramatta celebrating the centenary of the Gallipoli Landings. I have been nominated to represent Parramatta City Rotary but will not be available. I

am negotiating with Ron to have someone represent the club. The meeting will otherwise represent Janis Harvey (president, Parramatta Daybreak), and Dae Shakespeare, from the same club, who according to Janis “as all the ideas”; Pip Lovely our ADG and Chris McSeveney, from the Parramatta Rotary Club. The meeting is at 2 pm at the PCYC premises, 12 Hassall Street, Parramatta. The project follows advice from our Federal MP, Julie Owens, that money is available.

Barefoot Bowls

President-elect Ron Keith reminded us of the inter-club Barefoot Bowls day at the Parramatta RSL Club on Monday, 10 February. The contest will involve all three Parramatta Rotary clubs and possibly the Granville and Holroyd clubs.

Christmas Tree Sales

The sales went healthily this year. We sold out a little before the end of the scheduled period and we might introduce an additional service next year, to deliver and remove trees for an additional price. Bob Rosengreen has stressed the importance of having a mobile phone number featured prominently on our promotional leaflets because he said the small number on our net attracted a lot of attention the sales period just completed.

International Convention

Johnny Ching said the deadline for registering for the district to get a rebate on fees had been set for January 15, Wednesday this week, so it was the last chance to help the district derive a benefit.

Greg Kay

Greg was introduced and he provided a brief summary of his active background in both business and sport. Originally from Newcastle, Greg has represented Australia in cricket and hockey and has held management positions in both the financial services industry and sport and recreation. Over the past 10 years he has been mainly involved in providing business advisory, training, mentoring and change management services to SME's throughout Sydney and New South Wales to ensure that they achieve their annual profit and growth plans to maximise the value of their business. “I regard being active, having a healthy life style and achieving a good work/life balance as important objectives for all individuals and communities as a whole,” he said. Greg believes that wise investment/funding in keeping the community active and healthy from a young age will reap huge benefits for the future in savings and demands on the already overburdened current health system, especially with Australia's ageing population. He indicated regular involvement in any activity for 30-60 minutes per day (especially walking groups which have no costs) is particularly important and highly beneficial. Greg has been a representative sportsman in a number of different sports and these days continues his involvement as an administrator, coach and official. He believes it is important to give back to organisations which have assisted the individual and assisted in his or her life.



Greg

Dates for Diaries

20 January. Club meeting

22 January. Parramatta Rotary Clubs to discuss Anzac celebrations

26 January. Barbecue in Parramatta Park

Apologies and Guests

Apologies to Joy Gillett on 8837 1900 before 9.30 am on Monday morning.

This is the latest time apologies can be accepted as numbers must to be given to the hotel by this time.

If you are bringing a guest please also advise this to Joy by that time to ensure a meal is prepared.

The Club is required to pay for the number of lunches ordered. Invoices for the cost of a meal will be sent to members by Vandana if you do not apologise for non-attendance by the time stated.

How Prince Charles, the Heir Apparent, Seizes the Opportunity

This is among the series of funny photos from my son's excentric father-in-law, Try the following link.

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/mp/appmsg/show?__biz=MjM5Mjc5MDM2Mw==&appmsg_id=10000345&itemidx=3&sign=474af9ae0841dbd10f58f12c881ce86b&scene=2&uin=MTE1OTg4NTIONA%3D%3D

Swimming in Alcohol

I was a resident of Wesley College, Sydney University, from 1965 to 1968 at a time when the college was, as it had been since 1917, representative of strict conservative Wesleyan values within a university environment. There was to be no alcohol in college, women were allowed in on certain occasions, but there was to be no cohabitation. It all worked well. Students could go to hotels to drink and if they were naughty they could smuggle alcohol in occasionally, or even smuggle a girl into a room. But under the Mastership of the Rev Bert Wyllie, any student caught doing these things was liable to expulsion. But it all worked fine.

That changed under the Rev Norman Webb, a Cambridge MA who started his term in 1965. But by 1968, Webb was becoming dissatisfied with the separation of the colleges into four men's and two women's. He decided to make the college co-ed. It raised eyebrows but Webb insisted it was right. Women came in as resident students and it worked. Then in 1972 he rattled the cage again by decreeing that alcohol be allowed on "certain occasions", such as formal dinners. Again there were shockwaves but he prevailed.

At first it appeared to work, but within a few years everything went haywire. Alcohol moved from its tiny foothold to virtually take over the place, behaviour deteriorated, and Norman Webb ended up running away with one of the female students. Webb was sacked, divorced his long-suffering wife, and later died. But the women and alcohol remained. In 2004, when I became chairman of the Wesley College Foundation, the place was swimming in alcohol. There was Licensing Squad raid on the place and some students were arrested for selling alcohol without a licence. I sent a letter to the then Master, the Rev David Russell, expressing my concern, but to no avail.

I sent my younger son there for a year in 2010 but he was appalled by what he found. He could not use the bathroom for the vomit on the floor. On one of his outings the students were so affected by alcohol that one was badly injured by

stumbling in front of a car on Parramatta Road. In one year \$60,000 was done to the college in drunken, destructive rampages. The college council has brought in a disciplinarian, Lisa Sutherland, to bring things under control. She decreed that a soft drink should be an alternative to the “beer-wine” offering, but spasmodic bad behaviour continued.

All this leads me to the point that once there is the availability of alcohol in the general community, other things will follow, including violence and homicide. There was a time when all licensed premises had to close at 6 pm. That was too early and it of course gave rise to the “six o’clock swill” and the “sly grog” trade. Then the hours were extended to 10 pm, but it did not stop there. The liquor industry wanted more and more hours and so did the drinkers, so it took over the night. And with that came the appalling behaviour and the violence.

There is no logic to having the hours extended like this. In the early morning hours, few people are working. There is no reason not to be in bed. There is little to do outdoors but drink. No matter what the control measures being considered – 3 am lockouts the like, and restrictions on glass containers are a certain time – the fact is that alcohol is available. The community is swimming in it, and if it goes on there will be predictable consequences.

Malcolm Brown